

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-03 /013 R

DRAFTED BY DOD/ISA:WFIFER/NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:C

APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

DOD/ISA - MR. NOYES

PM - MR. NIEMI (INFO)

----- 043534

O R 152139Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

INFO CDR AMC ALEX VA//AMDIL-AMCPM-NG

DISTRENGR SA RIYADH SA//AMCPM-NG

DA WASHDC/DALO-IL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113715

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT
REVIEW

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. OSD/ISA HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT
ENGINEER IN RIYADH, WHICH NOT SENT TO EMBASSY: QTE: INFORMAL
INFORMATION RECEIVED HERE THAT COL. W. FIFER, OSD/ISA,
WILL BE A REPRESENTATIVE AT SUBJECT REVIEW SCHEDULED FOR
20 MAY. BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY COL. FIFER AT
THE INITIAL PRESENTATION, DEC 73, CDR OF SANG MAY CONSIDER
HIS PRESENCE AS NEGATIVE SIGNAL. SANG VERY CONCERNED US IS
LIMITING PROGRAM. REQUEST YOU RECONSIDER SENDING
COL. FIFER AS OSD REPRESENTATIVE AND THEREFORE AVOID ANY
POTENTIAL PROBLEM. UNQTE.

2. WE DO NOT KNOW REASON FOR MESSAGE OTHER THAN IT MAY
REFLECT PRINCE ABDULLAH'S PIQUE WHEN COLONEL FIFER TRANS-
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MITTED INITIAL PRESENTATION OF USG PROPOSAL FOR SANG

MODERNIZATION IN DECEMBER 73. AT THAT TIME HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO AFFIRM THAT WE WOULD LIMIT OUR INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM TO TWO MECHANIZED BATTALIONS RATHER THAN FOUR WHICH ABDULLAH DESIRED. THIS POSITION DID

NOT CHANGE UNTIL SPRING OF 1974 WHEN DECISION MADE GO AHEAD AND AGREE TO UNDERTAKE PROGRAM TO TRAIN FOUR BATTALIONS.

3. WE ARE AWARE THAT YOU CONTINUED TO USE COL. FIFER WHILE HE WAS DATT AS YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO MONITOR SANG PROGRAM, AND THAT ALTHOUGH SANG PROGRAM MANAGER TOOK ON MORE DAILY DETAIL IN DEVELOPING PROGRAM, FIFER CONTINUED TO ATTEND MEETINGS WITH ABDULLAH UNTIL DEPARTURE IN JUNE 1974. JUST PRIOR TO DEPARTING, COL. FIFER PAID A FAREWELL CALL ON ABDULLAH AND WAS ASSURED BY PRINCE THAT INITIAL PIQUE WAS PAST HISTORY AND THERE WAS NOTHING PERSONAL INTENDED ON EITHER SIDE.

4. MR. KOREN, AS SENIOR MEMBER OF WASHINGTON TEAM WILL BE ACTING AS THE DOD REPRESENTATIVE AS WELL AS REPRESENTING DA. HOWEVER, AS COL. FIFER IS TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES OF OSD/ISA COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR SAUDI ARABIA ON JUNE 21, WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT HE ATTEND THIS REVIEW UNLESS YOU PERCEIVE MAJOR PROBLEMS OR IF YOU HAVE REQUEST DIRECT FROM PRINCE ABDULLAH THAT HE NOT ATTEND. KISSINGER

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